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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 23rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 11 November 2010, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Chipaziwa ..... (Zimbabwe)

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10-63122 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 49: Effects of atomic radiation (*continued*)

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.6 on the effects of atomic radiation

1. **The Chairperson** announced that the sponsors of the draft resolution had been joined by Greece, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Monaco, Ukraine and New Zealand, and that it had no programme budget implications.

2. **Ms. Ventura** (Canada) said that the work done by the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, especially as it related to the use of nuclear energy, provided authoritative scientific assessments of the sources and effects of atomic radiation that were a vital tool in evaluating radiation risk and establishing appropriate safety and radiation protection standards.

3. Introducing draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.6, she noted that, as in past years, it endorsed the Scientific Committee's long-standing mandate and encouraged it to pursue its important work. She drew particular attention to the provisions of the tenth preambular paragraph and paragraphs 9 and 13.

4. **Mr. Mohamed** (Sudan) said that his delegation wished to register its disappointment and discontent at the deletion of previous paragraph 13 from the draft resolution, referring to the present membership of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation. However, the Sudan supported the continuation of the current membership of the Scientific Committee.

5. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.6 was adopted.*

Agenda item 118: Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Draft decision A/C.4/65/L.7: Proposed programme of work and timetable of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) for the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly

6. **The Chairperson** drew attention to the draft decision submitted by the Bureau for inclusion, with the Committee's approval, as an annex to the report on item 118 to the plenary Assembly. In considering the proposed programme of work, the Bureau had taken into account paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 64/301 but had not considered that any of the other items on the Committee's agenda should be biennialized or triennialized, nor had it seen possibilities for further clustering or elimination of items.

7. *Draft decision A/C.4/65/L.7 was adopted.*

Agenda item 51: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (*continued*) (A/65/551)

8. **Mr. Løvold**, speaking as Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and introducing the report of the Working Group (A/65/551), said that the extent and the nature of the funding crisis facing UNRWA were deeply worrying. While many donors had continued to be very generous despite the global crisis, the report indicated that the level of current contributions for the Agency's General Fund budget was inadequate to meet the basic needs of a growing Palestine refugee population. Higher and more predictable income remained critical, because shortfalls of the kind witnessed in 2010 had become structural. As of September 2010, the anticipated funding gap had been $80.8 million against the downsized 2010 budget, but thanks to the generosity of some of the Agency's main donors in recent weeks, that had been reduced to about $30 million. For 2011, however, the outlook was graver owing to the exhaustion of the Agency's working capital reserve and a large gap forecast between essential expenditures and anticipated contributions from traditional donors.

9. The consequences of that structural financial crisis were many and dramatic, as the report noted, not only undermining access to and the quality of some UNRWA services, but also creating more hardship for staff and jeopardizing the ability of UNRWA to continue the major management reform process it had initiated in 2007. Given the importance of that reform, the Working Group urged donors to fund the Agency's new Sustaining Change initiative, expected to cost $23 million over three years. The Working Group also attached high priority to replenishing the UNRWA capital reserve, which involved the injection of about $130 million as a safety cushion.

10. Lastly, the report highlighted the need for the General Assembly to provide the Agency with adequate financial support, by identifying potential sources of funding that could be used to finance severance payments should it need greater flexibility in the efficient use of staff; reviewing the adequacy of the current level and scope of funding from the United Nations regular budget to meet contemporary demands on the Agency's management, including in particular compliance with General Assembly-mandated initiatives relating to accounting and security standards, the reform of internal justice and the acquisition of a needed data-management system.

11. The Working Group also called upon all donors, especially those in the region, to respond to UNRWA emergency reconstruction needs in Gaza and Lebanon. The Agency played a vital role in assisting the refugees but also in preserving the stability and security of the region, a strategic goal that the international community must help it fulfil. The matter required further discussion and should be considered in conjunction with the strengthening of the Agency's management capacity.

12. **The Chairperson** said that the report on the strengthening of the management capacity of UNRWA was being finalized and was not available for consideration, but the Director for Administrative Support of UNRWA would inform delegations on the current status of the report. He suggested that an additional meeting of the Committee should be scheduled early in 2011 to consider the report.

13. *It was so decided.*

14. **Ms. Londén** (Director of Administrative Support, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) said that action to improve her Agency's grave financial outlook was crucial. Unfortunately, throughout the Agency's history, the funds made available to it had not kept up with the growing numbers of refugees and their increasingly complex needs.

15. Especially at more dramatic junctures such as the current one, the Agency had been obliged to turn to the General Assembly for urgent assistance. The major donors to UNRWA had responded magnificently to its changing needs and circumstances, especially the periodic bouts of violence in the region and the current global financial crisis. What had changed beyond recognition since the General Assembly had last considered UNRWA funding in any depth, back in 1974, was the scale and nature of demands on the Agency's management. Apart from the complexity of the programmes currently needed, there was a more challenging operational environment, much more rigorous monitoring and evaluation requirements on the part of donors, and increased demands from the General Assembly itself in recent years. Those requests from key stakeholders demanded additional financial resources beyond those required for programmatic purposes, and could not be met owing to the annual shortfalls in funding and the drying-up of the previous working capital reserve.

16. The dire prospect of the inability of the Agency to sustain its operations had been averted three months earlier, but it still remained on a knife edge. If it did not receive an additional 10 million dollars within the next five weeks, the December staff payroll could not be met.

17. For its part, UNRWA management had been exercising maximum austerity and fiscal prudence across the board. The estimated 2010 budget had been cut back, and the realization of the six-year medium-term plan to improve the overall quality of services faced cloudy prospects. She assured Member States emphatically that, faced with a structural deficit expected only to worsen in coming years, UNRWA was turning to the General Assembly for funding from the regular budget only as a last resort, and not merely to fill a temporary budget gap. In a parallel situation in the early 1970s, when the needs of the Palestine refugees were rapidly outstripping donor income, the General Assembly had stepped into the breach and agreed to cover the cost of international staff salaries out of the Organization's regular staff budget, thus providing the Agency with a modest financial cushion to allow scarce voluntary contributions to be devoted to programme activities in the field. The situation at hand was strikingly similar, the difference being that the Agency's management was currently attempting simultaneously to improve its management of resources, plan better, and target the refugees most in need, while also carrying out reform in a series of areas mandated by the General Assembly. Also, as a proportion of the Agency's overall financial needs, the financial cushion authorized by the General Assembly 36 years earlier had shrunk in real value even as staff positions funded by other agencies had dwindled to one tenth of the number in 1974.

18. At an agency like UNRWA which performed life-saving and human development work in the Middle East day in and day out, when management-related requirements competed for dwindling financial resources with essential programme and emergency demands, the latter must prevail. One very visible result of the constant shortfalls, however, was the deteriorating quality of services provided to an already underprivileged refugee population.

19. It would be unreasonable to seek the replenishment of the working capital reserve from the United Nations regular budget, but neither could the untenable situation be wished away. The advice of Member States on how to restore the Agency's financial health would be most welcome. Perhaps the General Assembly could reconsider the adequacy of the financial arrangements for UNRWA made in 1974, and expand the scope of regular budget funding to pay not only for international staff salaries, but also for some Headquarters functions and for the new management-related expenditures. UNRWA, aware of the difficult financial environment facing the United Nations, could accept an incremental approach, with additional expenditure phased into the Organization's proposed programme budget over two biennial cycles. In any case, there should be no doubt that the status quo was unsustainable and that the financial problems would intensify in the years to come. Member States in all parts of the world had always shown an impressive degree of solidarity with UNRWA, and she was confident that they would not abandon it now in its moment of need.

20. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for Palestine) said that it was clear that the financial difficulties faced by the Agency were in fact structural in nature and that any solution must make that the primary consideration. The persistent monetary shortfalls were straining both the financial and the human resources of UNRWA, and the attention and energy of the Commissioner-General and much of the staff, and were at the same time — along with the critical challenges on the ground — affecting the Agency's ability to deliver services adequately. It was simply unfair that funds generously contributed by the donor community for the provision of essential services had instead to be used to cover expenses resulting from the ongoing conflict and from Israel's unacceptable imposition of taxes, levies and movement restrictions on its staff and supplies. Regrettably, the austerity measures the Agency had been forced to apply on various occasions had made the refugee population fearful that the international community was no longer committed to the necessary humanitarian assistance, or even ultimately to a just resolution of their plight.

21. Palestine hoped that the General Assembly, which strongly supported the Agency's mandate, would deal comprehensively with the critical financial issues facing it, doing what was needed to enable it to carry out all of its responsibilities properly and confidently. The donor community as well must continue its strong support of UNRWA.

22. She asked the UNRWA Director of Administrative Support for clarification on two points: what was different about the current financial crisis that had made the Agency appeal now to the General Assembly for assistance; and what would be the Agency's priorities if additional funding was received from the General Assembly?

23. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon) thanked UNRWA for the services it provided to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Syria, Palestine proper and Jordan. He was pleased that the funding shortfall had fallen from US$ 100 million to US$ 30 million. While he thanked donors both small and large, and in particular the United States, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the European Union, he called on all donors to contribute generously to UNRWA to overcome the funding shortfall.

24. There was a degree of confusion among delegates related to the general fund for special projects and the emergency funding appeals. While the situation of the general fund was understood, the obstacles faced by special projects were political, mainly as a result of the Israeli blockade, which in some cases prevented UNRWA from spending amounts it held. Specifically, in Gaza, the Agency had not been able to rebuild schools.

25. His delegation strongly supported the use of assessed contributions to cover administrative spending and to improve financial and administrative procedures.

26. He noted that UNRWA had incurred additional expenditures as a result of the taxes levied by the Israeli occupation on items entering Gaza and through compulsory palletization and demurrage.

27. **Ms. Londén** (Director of Administrative Support, UNRWA) said that a special appeal to the General Assembly was, for UNRWA, the last resort. Over the previous five years, expenditure had outstripped income and working capital had been depleted to the point that there was none left, which was the reason extra assistance was required. Working capital had been used as a result of operational pressures, emergencies and unforeseen new requirements. She said that if funding were forthcoming, UNRWA would give priority to all of the requirements mandated by the General Assembly, especially staff safety and security, in addition to the administration of justice and critical information management systems.

The meeting rose at 3.55 p.m.

United Nations A/C.4/65/SR.24

General Assembly
Sixty-fifth session

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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 24th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 15 November 2010, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Chipaziwa ..... (Zimbabwe)

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Agenda item 52: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (*continued*)

Completion of the Committee's work

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10-63790 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 51: United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (*continued*) (A/C.4/65/L.8-L.11)

1. **Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia) introduced the four draft resolutions under agenda item 51 (A/C.4/65/L.8-L.11), which, inter alia, reaffirmed long-standing principles and positions upheld by the international community with respect to Palestine refugees and acknowledged the vital services that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) was providing to them and the Agency's contribution to the stability of the region.

2. The draft resolutions were based on the resolutions adopted at previous sessions but had been updated to reflect the situation on the ground. In draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.8 on assistance to Palestine refugees, he highlighted paragraphs 6 and 7 renewing the Agency's mandate and inviting Kuwait to become a member of its Advisory Commission. In draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.9 on persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities, he stressed the provisions regarding their right of return and their continuing need for humanitarian assistance.

3. Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.10 on the operations of UNRWA addressed the difficulties faced by the Agency and the continuing needs of the refugees in all fields of operation. It inter alia called upon Israel to abide by the provisions of the Charter and the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, cease obstructing the movement of the Agency's staff, reimburse it for all transit charges and losses incurred and lift restrictions on the import of construction materials. Referring to paragraph 10, he noted that, since the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the financial management capacity of UNRWA had not been finalized, it should be amended to read:

> "*Looks forward* to the transmittal of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the financial management capacity of the Agency, as requested by the Working Group and as endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/89".

4. Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.11 on Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues reaffirmed the rights of the Palestine Arab refugees and urged the two sides to address the issue as part of the final status negotiations.

5. **Ms. Deman** (Belgium), speaking on behalf of the European Union and recalling its statements in explanation of vote of the previous year on items related to Palestine, said that the draft resolutions addressed a broad range of issues and principles. The European Union recognized the efforts of the Palestinian delegation to streamline the texts and reduce the number of resolutions, fully supported a two-State solution and deeply appreciated the invaluable work of UNRWA. Both parties should remain calm and avoid rhetoric or any actions that could undermine the peace process.

6. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to take action on the four draft resolutions under agenda item 51, noting that they had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.8: Assistance to Palestine refugees

7. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

8. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras,

Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

9. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.8 was adopted by 163 votes to 1, with 8 abstentions.**

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.9: Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities

10. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Mali had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

11. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

* The delegation of Georgia subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Canada, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Panama.

12. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.9 was adopted by 160 votes to 6, with 5 abstentions.**

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.10: Operations of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

13. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Th land, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Canada.

14. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.10, as orally revised, was adopted by 162 votes to 6, with 2 abstentions.**

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.11: Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues

15. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and Ukraine had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

16. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq,

* The delegation of Georgia subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.11 was adopted by 160 votes to 6, with 4 abstentions.**

18. **Mr. Windsor** (Australia) said that, as in the past, his delegation had voted in favour of the draft resolution on the operations of UNRWA, which it supported fully. While he welcomed the changes made to the language of the draft, he felt that a greater effort should have been made to ensure a balanced text that would include, for example, condemnation of rocket attacks by Hamas. His delegation supported the right of Israel to defend itself.

19. **Mr. Sheck** (Canada), underscoring Canada's active support since 1950 for the vital operations UNRWA was conducting, and the need for all parties to protect civilians, said that his delegation had nonetheless abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.10 because of its concern that some of the language did not promote a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in focusing blame solely on Israel without recognizing either its legitimate security concerns or the fact that Hamas rockets fired against Israel civilians had caused the 2008/2009 conflict in Gaza. Such one-sided language did not belong in a resolution supporting the good work of UNRWA.

Agenda item 52: Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories (*continued*)
(A/C.4/65/L.12-L.16)

20. **Ms. Hernández Toledano** (Cuba), introducing the five draft resolutions under agenda item 52 (A/C.4/65/L.12-L.16), said that they called for an end to Israel's illegal practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan and compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Fourth Geneva Convention and international law in general.

21. Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.12 on the work of the Special Committee emphasized the need to end the Israeli occupation and the violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people. In draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.13 on the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories, she highlighted paragraphs 1 to 4. In draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.14 on Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, she drew attention to the twelfth through fifteenth preambular paragraphs expressing grave concern about the construction and expansion of settlements and the continuing unlawful construction of the wall and to paragraphs 3, 4 and 6, which, inter alia, reiterated the demand for the immediate and complete cessation of all Israeli settlement activities and the prevention of all acts of violence and harassment by Israeli settlers. In draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.15 on Israeli practices affecting

* The delegation of Georgia subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, she reviewed the applicable international instruments cited in the preamble, highlighting the eighteenth and twentieth preambular paragraphs detailing Israel's ongoing systematic violations and the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip in the aftermath of its recent military operation there and made particular reference to paragraphs 2, 8, 9 and 10. Noting that the text of draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.16, on the occupied Syrian Golan, was essentially the same as those that had been used since 1982, she underscored its strong message against foreign occupation and annexation and recalled that Israel's decision to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration had been declared by the Security Council.

22. She expressed the hope that Member States would give their full support to those resolutions, which dealt with issues of vital importance to the Palestinian people and other Arabs of the occupied territories.

23. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to take action on the five draft resolutions under agenda item 52. He indicated that they had no programme budget implications.

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.12: Work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

24. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Mali had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

25. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Comoros, Congo, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cameroon, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.12 was adopted by 87 votes to 8, with 73 abstentions.**

* The delegation of Georgia said that it had intended to abstain and the delegation of Panama that it had intended to vote against the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.4/64/L.13: Applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the other occupied Arab territories

27. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Mali had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

28. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo.

29. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.13 was adopted by 161 votes to 6, with 3 abstentions.**

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.14: Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan

30. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar,

* The delegation of Georgia said that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Panama, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Panama.

31. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.14 was adopted by 159 votes to 6, with 5 abstentions.**

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.15: Israeli practices affecting the human rights of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem

32. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that Mali and Mauritania had become sponsors of the draft resolution.

33. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, Panama, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia.

34. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.15 was adopted by 156 votes to 9, with 4 abstentions.*[§]

* The delegation of Georgia said that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

§ The delegation of Georgia said that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.16: The occupied Syrian Golan

35. **Ms. Herity** (Secretary of the Committee) announced that the Plurinational State of Bolivia had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

36. *A recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel.

Abstaining:

Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Liberia, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, Palau, United States of America.

37. *Draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.16 was adopted by 158 votes to 1, with 10 abstentions.**

38. **The Chairperson** invited delegations to explain their votes or to make general statements.

39. **Mr. Sahraei** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation had voted in favour of all the draft resolutions as an expression of solidarity with the Palestinian people, whose legally established government and national aspirations it supported unwaveringly. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict would be settled only when the international community recognized the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to self-defence against aggression. Lasting peace would come only with justice, an end to the Israeli occupation and its violation of Palestinian rights, the return of the Palestinians to their lands, and the establishment of a freely chosen, democratic Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital.

40. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his delegation had voted in favour of draft resolutions A/C.4/65/L.12 and A/C.4/65/L.15, because the Syrian Arab Republic was convinced of the justice of the Palestinian cause and of the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to struggle for liberation from occupation and the establishment of an independent Palestinian State. His Government understood the relevant paragraphs to mean that implementation was directly contingent upon Israel's compliance with the demand that it cease its systematic violations of the human rights of the Palestinian people, including the excessive use of force; the use of collective punishment; the confiscation of land; the continuation of settlement policies; the construction of the racist separation wall; the detention of thousands of innocent Palestinians; and all other actions by it designed to

* The delegation of Georgia said that it had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

change the legal status and demographic composition of the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

41. The two resolutions contained paragraphs that were not satisfactory to his delegation. In particular, the ninth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.12 and the twentieth preambular paragraph of draft resolution A/C.4/65/L.15 were worded in such a way as to give the impression that there was equality of arms between the aggressor and the victim, thus sending the wrong political message to the Israeli occupation authorities and encouraging them to continue with their aggression and inhuman practices in the occupied Arab territories. He recalled that it was Israel that occupied Palestinian land and that it was Israel that had attacked Gaza, using internationally prohibited weapons to kill civilians, including children, older persons and women.

42. The fact was that peoples under occupation had a right to resist occupation. The Syrian Arab Republic would never accept any attempt to derogate from that right and allow injustice and murder to prevail over justice and the law. His delegation would continue to reject all comparisons which placed the occupier on the same footing as the person struggling to end foreign occupation; such comparisons had no validity whatsoever and were contrary to the Charter and the spirit of the human rights principles that the United Nations had advocated for decades.

43. **Mr. Sheck** (Canada) expressed concern about the disproportionate emphasis the Committee placed on the situation in the Middle East and the number of its draft resolutions that singled out one country for blame. The resolutions and the debate on Arab-Israeli issues ought to be fair-minded, reflect the responsibilities of all parties concerned and seek to advance a negotiated peace.

44. Canada had voted in favour of the two draft resolutions that touched on key issues — draft resolutions A/C.4/65/L.13 and L.14 — because of its long-standing position that Israel was bound by the Fourth Geneva Convention, and that Israeli settlements were a violation of that Convention. It had done so even though some of the language was divisive, at a time when the goal should be to bring the parties back to negotiations and help them achieve the two-State solution that alone would secure a peaceful future for the Middle East.

45. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the wide support for the draft resolutions adopted under agenda items 51 and 52 reflected the international community's rejection of occupation by force and human rights violations. The resolutions sent a clear message to Israel to end its occupation of all the occupied Arab territories and cease its violations of the Geneva Conventions of 1949. The adoption, by a majority vote, of the resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan (A/C.4/65/L.16) furthermore confirmed that the Israeli decision to endeavour to annex the occupied Syrian Golan and impose Israeli laws, jurisdiction and administration on the Golan, to build and expand settlements and to pursue racist practices against the Syrian people of the Golan were null and void and without international legal effect. Indeed, in the occupied Syrian Golan, Israel had committed a grave, twofold violation of international law, compounding its occupation of Syrian territory with the imposition of invalid laws, in particular the decision to annex the Syrian Golan. That measure recalled the darkest days of modern history when, at the beginning of the Second World War in Europe, a particular State had attacked and annexed parts of other countries.

46. The adoption of the resolutions underscored the importance of the work of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices, and he called on all States to assist the Special Committee in bringing Israel's crimes to light. Any attempt to undermine the Special Committee would only provide Israel with the cover it needed to pursue its practices and settlement activities in violation of human rights and international humanitarian law.

47. The Syrian Arab Republic had frequently expressed its commitment to a fair and just peace, but the Israeli response to its initiatives and overtures had been to prevaricate and continue with its well-known practices in the occupied Arab territories, including the continued detention of thousands of Palestinians and the maintenance of the blockade on Gaza. Likewise, settlement activities continued at an intensive pace in the West Bank, especially East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, notwithstanding international condemnation. A peace process had no chance of success if one side, the Arab side, was working to promote it, while the other side, Israel, was doing its utmost to undermine it. What the peace process needed was an Israeli partner that was really committed to a peace based on internationally recognized principles.

48. His delegation called on those few delegations that had abstained from voting on the draft resolution concerning the occupied Syrian Golan to join the international consensus and vote for the resolution when it went before the General Assembly in coming days. Any failure to condemn the Israeli occupation and annexation would only send the wrong message to those who broke the law, suggesting that the law of the jungle had now taken the place of international law and that law-breakers enjoyed impunity. Noting that the Israeli delegation had been the only one to vote against the resolution on the occupied Syrian Golan, in defiance of international law, he invited that delegation to put itself in the position of the Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the Syrians in the occupied Syrian Golan for just one day in order to understand the terrible suffering that those people had endured for over six decades.

49. **Ms. Abdelhady-Nasser** (Observer for Palestine), expressing her gratitude to the sponsors of all the draft resolutions just adopted and to those who had voted in their favour, said that it was of paramount importance to uphold international law and adherence to United Nations resolutions, especially at that critical juncture when Israel's illegal policies and practices and its intransigence on all core issues were imperilling the two-State solution for peace. Palestine was heartened by the commitment the resolutions reflected to respect the principles of international humanitarian and human rights law, to protect the human rights of the Palestine refugees and to support the tireless work of UNRWA on their behalf. The international community had been unequivocal in holding Israel to all its obligations under international law, and the occupying Power should heed those demands, cease its defiance and breaches of the law, and allow efforts towards a peace settlement to move forward.

50. The calls for compliance with international law should be seen as complementing current peace efforts, not as impeding them. Continued appeasement would only foster further impunity, whereas respect for legality would bring about a real change in the situation on the ground, and create the right environment for negotiating a just and lasting settlement that would allow the Palestinian and Israeli peoples to coexist in peace and would bring stability to the region.

Rights of reply

51. **Mr. Weissbrod** (Israel) said that he would not go over Israel's well-known positions regarding the resolutions adopted by the Committee. Speaking, however, in exercise of the right of reply to the Syrian Arab Republic, he observed that it was really preposterous that a country which was sabotaging peace daily by delivering arms to terrorist organizations in Lebanon, in the Gaza Strip, should lecture others. The Syrian Arab Republic should look first at itself and consider how it might instead further peace. Its actions certainly showed no will to peace.

52. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the terrorism perpetrated by Israel was the worst on the planet. Israel was an entity established by terrorist gangs, and its heads of government had committed aggression and collective massacres in the 1940s and 1950s in Palestine, later going on to other Arab countries such as the Syrian Arab Republic, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt, and even reaching as far as Tunisia, the Sudan and other regions of the world. Such an entity had no right to speak of legality. It was an outlaw and so considered by the international community, as evidenced by the votes just recorded. International law condemned the occupation of other countries. Israel had introduced nuclear weapons into the region and threatened to use them, and it was now blackmailing the United States, its closest ally, to get concessions on the false pretext that it would freeze settlements — a clear form of terrorism — when instead it was expanding its settlements dangerously. Israel had not a single ally that believed in peace — all of them were warmongers, schooled in provocation and oppression.

53. Israel should keep silent and be ashamed, and not force his delegation to say more to expose it.

54. **Mr. Weissbrod** (Israel) said that the Syrian statement spoke for itself, and showed where that country really stood. Instead of supporting terrorism and regularly supplying weapons to Hamas, the Syrian Government should show the world it wanted peace. The burden of proof was on its shoulders.

55. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Israel was responsible for committing acts of State terrorism in the Middle East. The Palestinian people and the Lebanese people could in no way be accused of terrorism for mounting a legitimate resistance to the

Israeli occupation of their land. Of the scores of resolutions adopted on the question of Palestine, not a single one had ever expressed support for the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories. It was Israel that occupied Arab land, violated human rights, built illegal settlements, carried out attacks and rejected peace initiatives. There was no concealing the truth; it was Israel that was responsible for committing acts of State terrorism in the Middle East.

56. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, reminded Israel that Hizbullah was a member of Lebanon's Unity Government and had begun as a popular response to Israeli occupation of his country. It was nothing but a resistance movement that had fought honourably to liberate most of the occupied land.

57. The results of the day's vote were the best answer to Israel: the real international community, as opposed to the small group of protectors of Israel, was on the side of the rule of law and condemned it for its illegal practices everywhere, including in Lebanon. Such an entity, two of whose senior officials had been issued arrest warrants, should be careful when making accusations.

Completion of the Committee's work

58. **The Chairperson** said that the work of the Fourth Committee was primarily political and, as decided by its members, would remain so. At the same time, the Committee dealt with a number of issues that related to other aspects of the work of the Secretariat, including public information, outer space and atomic radiation, and the flexible working methods the Committee had adopted in recent years, such as the informative interactive dialogue format, had allowed it to pursue those wide-ranging issues in depth.

59. After reviewing the work accomplished under each agenda item during the session, and recalling that two pending reports under agenda items 51 and 53 still had to be discussed when the current session resumed in 2011, he declared that the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) had completed its work for the main part of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.